



USAID | GEORGIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

July 2006



The first modern pediatric emergency room in the former Soviet Union was constructed in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, with USAID support. These doctors, trained in emergency medicine through a USAID health partnership program with Emory University in Atlanta, treat a young Georgian girl at the new ER.

GEORGIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1991
Capital: Tbilisi
Population: 4.5 million
Annual income per person:
\$1,040

For more information, see
<http://georgia.usaid.gov>

CURRENT SITUATION

Georgia's health and social services sectors are struggling to overcome the ill-effects of low government spending in these areas since independence in 1991. Not surprisingly, schools and health facilities have not been well-maintained, maternal and child mortality rates are high, and secondary school attendance rates are dropping. In spite of this, Georgia has managed to keep its life expectancy rate stable and keep vaccine preventable diseases in check. In addition, due to its improved ability to collect tax and other revenues, the government has increased the health budget by more than 20% for 2006.



USAID's health and education projects work at the national level to reform and rebuild Georgia's ailing health and education sectors, which suffer from years of systemic corruption and neglect. Focus is also on working with Georgia's youth to empower them for a brighter future.

PROGRAM FOCUS

1. Provide policy assistance to the Ministry of Health;
2. Support the government of Georgia's education reform;
3. Improve child, maternal, and reproductive health;
4. Reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis;
5. Prevent and control infectious diseases of major importance; and
6. Provide support services to street children and other vulnerable and at-risk children.

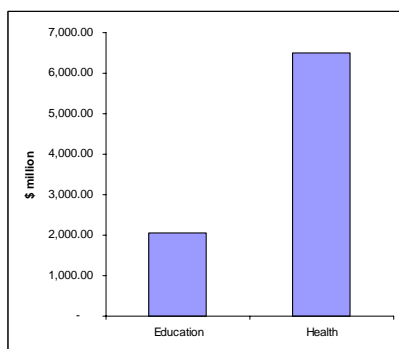
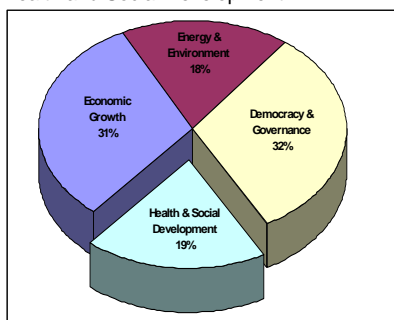


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HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Percentage of USAID's 2006 budget spent on Health and Social Development:



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SUCCESSES

- HIV-prevention activities reached over 12,000 people at high risk for HIV, and the number of injecting IV drug users sharing needles decreased from 79.2% (2002) to 42.9% (2005)
- Nine newly established “DOT (direct observation therapy) Spots” in Tbilisi have increased patient compliance with TB treatment therapy from 28% to 91%; the TB treatment success rate in Tbilisi reached 71% in 2005 versus 60% in 2003
- Mobile outreach services for street children provide 1,300 children with food, shelter, clothing, and medical assistance
- USAID helped the Ministry of Health produce the first set of National Health Accounts (NHA), which enabled the Ministry to justify a more than 20 percent increase in the 2006 government health budget
- The Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs approved the integration of family planning services at the primary health care level in 44 USAID-supported health clinics
- Client exit interviews conducted at USAID-supported health clinics show that 84% of post-partum women and 90% of women coming for prenatal care received family planning counseling – as compared with 7% nationwide.